LETTER

TO A

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, &C.

[Price 11. 64.]

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MEMBER OFPARLIAMENT, 30

[Price 17. 64.]

LETTER

TOA

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MEMBER of PARLIAMENT,

Concerning the

Free British Fisheries;

WITH

Draughts of a HERRING-Buss and NETS, and the Harbour and Town of Peterbead.

How to dash wide the Billow; nor look on, Shamefully passive, while Batavian Fleets Defraud us of the glittering finny Swarms, That heave our Firths, and crowd upon our Shores: How all-enlivening Trade to rouse, and wing, The prosperous Sail from every growing Port, Unchalleng'd, round the sea-incircled Globe; And thus, in Soul united as in Name, Bid Britain reign the Mistress of the Deep.

Thomson's Seasons.

LONDON:

Printed for R. SPAVAN, in Ivy-Lane, Pater-Noster-Row, 1750.

LETTER

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

Concerning the

Free British Fisheries;

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Draughts of all sursume-Buss and Nars, and the Harbour and Town of Pitterson.

With selventurous Oar.

How to dath wide the Bellow; nor look on, Shamefully pathye, wate Bararion there.

Defract us of the plittering theny Swappie.

That heave our laries, and crowd upon our Shores; How all-enlivening larde to toute, and wing.

The proferous Sail from every growing Port.

Unchaltern d, round the fea-incircled Clobe; And thus, in Soul united as in Name.

But Entire reign the Mellinds of the Deep.

LONDON:

Printed for R. Spavas, in Ly-Land, Pater-



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LETTER, &c.

SIR,

HE Fishery was my first Mistress in Trade; I courted her several Years with great Assiduity, and at considerable Expence; at last I found she was not to be gained, without some more powerful Aids, which I endeavoured to obtain, but in vain; then I mourned my Missortune, yet still retained my Love for, and Admiration of her.

But, to leave Metaphors, I may venture, Sir, to affirm, that the truly public Spirit which you and other Gentlemen of the B Honourable House of Commons have shewn. and the great Trouble you have taken, in enquiring into, promoting and establishing the Fisheries, and the just Sense of their Importance, which was testified by that Honourable House in general, and by several Persons of great Eminence in particular, who expressed their Sentiments on that Occasion, have given the greatest Satisfaction to the Public; and tho' the most considerable Branch, viz. the Herring and Cod-Fishery, was for want of Time for due Confideration postponed to the next Seffion of Parliament; yet the previous Steps then fo unanimously taken, and the Alacrity that manifested itself to rescue this Source of Wealth from the Incroachments of our Neighbours, are at least an Earnest of what may be hoped from the British Parliament, upon an Occasion of such Importance.

In Dependance on these promising Appearances, I have endeavoured to contribute my Mite to the public Utility, by making a Circuit of above 1200 Miles, in order to get further Lights upon the Subject of the Fisheries: Which I have executed to the best of my Ability, since I had the Honour of seeing you after the Close of the last Session of Parliament.

What has occurred worthy of Observation, I have thrown together in this Letter, which I have the Honour to address to you, as well to affish your own laudable Zeal, as that of other Patriots, in forming proper Ideas of the Matter, and a Scheme for the Execution of this favourite Undertaking.

I shall not waste Time in observing on the immense Wealth that a neighbouring Nation has acquired from the Fishery, the Rife and Decay of it, and the Probability of its being revived; these Topicks having been sufficiently explained in the last Seffion, to the Honourable Committee, and by a late ingenious Pamphlet, The Wealth of Great-Britain in the Ocean; I shall only take Notice, that the Dutch, with all their Industry, cannot avail themselves of those Advantages which Providence tenders to us: Our Coast, from Zetland southwards to the Banks of Yarmouth, unfrequented by us, may be called their Herring-Pond; yet it affords them but one String to their Bow, and fometimes fails them, and nevertheless they have drawn fuch Treasures from thence as to enable the States to assume to themfelves the Title of High and Mighty. On the other Hand, we have many Strings to the B 2

Bow; many Avenues are open to us which cannot fail, though hitherto by some Fatality over-looked; the Truth of which will appear from what follows.

Being at Findorn, in the Month of August last, with Mr. Frigg, the Trustees Surveyor for Fishing in the Northern Parts, he gave me the following Letter from his Deputy in the Highlands, which he had receceived some Time before:

Inver. June 26, 1749.

SIR,

HERE is a Veffel from the Lewes here, that gives a great Account of Herrings at Lock-Rogue, where they swimed last Year, and there is a very good Appearance on the Main-land-Coast; for they are catching Herrings more than they and the Neighbourhood that are at some Diftance from the Sea can confume, and could catch many more all along the Coast from Cape Wreath to Lochow, if they had Encouragement, and were well equipped with Fishing Materials. Of this I thought proper to acquaint you, that you might inform accordingly, in order to encourage some of the Herring-mongers to call at some of our Lochs on the main Land, in case it may be God's Will to continue with us this great and

and general Bleffing, which we have not had in such Plenty these twelve Years. I shall not fail to inform you and Bailie Frazer, from Time to Time, of the Fishing, where and how they swim. I am, &c.

Signed, Neil Campbell.

Loch-Rogue lies at the Back of Lewis-Island, next to the great Western Ocean, which was not in use to be tried for Fishing; but it appears from this Letter that Herrings are there in great Quantities, and fo early as the Month of June; which confirms me in the Opinion I always had, that the Herrings came from the Western Ocean, and that the Shoals divided themfelves by Zetland, Orkney, and the Western Islands; from the fouth End of which to the North of Ireland is about thirty Leagues, which is the Door that lets them into Clyde, * Loch-Fin, and the Irish Channel, at which Opening they may eafily be caught early by Buffes.

At Fochabers, Mr. Gordon, a great Dealer in Salmon, told me that he believed the Herrings were every Year in the Murray-Firth, and the adjoining Coast; for in the Month of August the Salmon had always Herring in their Bellies: Then they, the Salmon, abandoned the Rivers, and went to

Sea

Sea for their Herring-Fishing, upon which they feed. Also some Sea-Fowls, that usually follow Herrings, are generally feen there in the Murray-Firth and the Firth of Forth: in which last mentioned Place they had a few Days Herring-Fishing last August, near Anstruther, and cured about fix or feven hundred Barrels for Export, part of which were shipped off for St. Lucer and Cadiz. And they would have probably had much greater Quantities farther out from the Shore, agreeable to the Information of Peter Sligh, Fisherman in Fisher-Row, who fays, That in August 1748, he was fishing for white Fish to the Eastward of the Island of May, where he saw about fifty Dutch Buffes fishing Herrings, which were then in fuch Plenty, that they got their Loadings in a few Days; and this was within the River or Firth of Forth.

But I was informed, that at Anstruther, and the neighbouring Towns upon that Coast, they had not above 1500 Bushels of Salt, and scarce forty Lasts of Barrels, in store.

Last Year they had great Plenty of Herrings at Air, in the West of Scotland; they filled a!l the Barrels and Casks they could get, used all their Salt, and still the Herrings

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continued, but for want of Stores they could fish no more. Thus it appears we have several Strings to our Bow; and if Provision was made at different Places, and proper Busses and Vessels sent to search for the Herrings, we might be morally certain of a good Fishing every Year.

The Dutch have had this last Season in our Harbours, and upon our Coast, only 206 Sail of Busses, with three Hospital or Guard-Ships, and a proportionable Number of Jagers or Tenders: There were 136 from the Maes, and 70 from Enkbuson.

But the French Nation, ever watchful to take all Opportunities of making Advantages to herself, either in War or Peace, now the latter is happily established, is most sollicitous and industrious to improve it so as to be in a Condition to renew the War when a favourable Opportunity shall offer. Navigation and a Navy to cope with Britain is all she wants; and I pray she may ever want it, and that we may at least be equally industrious and follicitous to improve our better Situation for that Purpose. She has not only laid a very heavy Duty on Barrel-Cod, equal to a Prohibition, which has obliged the Dutch to reduce the Number of their Doggers, but also thinks herself equally

qually entitled with them to take a Share of our Herrings; and has been fo alert and vigilant, as to have several Herring-Buffes from Dunkirk in Braffa Sound in Zetland this last Season, and these were commanded by Captains of Privateers; so that upon a new War, they will be well acquainted on the North Coast: Mattias Vanstrake was the Commodore; and the Merchant in Dunkirk wrote to a Gentleman of Lerwick in Zetland, that he would fend some more Buffes, and recommend them to him next Seafon; and defired he would advance them Necessaries, for which he would pay him, and for his Trouble. But it is inform'd, that the above Duty on Cod is lately fufpended, until a new Tariff be made with the Dutch. Also there were last Season in Zetland some Buffes from Sweden at the Herring-Fishing, who were not formerly in use to come hither.

France does not hesitate long about a Matter that is so evidently beneficial as our Fishery; though, perhaps, it was imagin'd formerly, and may be the Reason they did not then attempt it, that we should have moved in it ourselves. And indeed in almost all Reigns, and in our Time, there have been several Attempts made toward such an happy Event; but for what Reason

none of them have been made effectual, I am at a Loss to determine. I remember an Attempt that was made about fifteen Years ago, which was countenanced by feveral Gentlemen of Fortune and Honour, particularly by Sir William Chapman, Sir Jo-feph Eyles, and Mr. Heathcot, &c. and yet it came to nothing, for want of that Encouragement which the Public only can bestow. The Reasons why such Encouragements have not hitherto been obtained, might possibly be best past over in Silence, especially as it is greatly hoped they shall no longer pre-vail: But as they happen to be touched upon by a late eminent Writer, in an original Letter, which he wrote to a Gentleman who was concerned in the last mentioned Attempt, and who being discouraged by the little Regard shewn here at that Time to a Matter of fuch national Consequence, had wrote to that eminent Person, moving him to espouse the like Project in Ireland, I cannot help troubling you with a Transcript of it. I dare say I need make no Apology for rescuing any Piece from Obscurity, that claims no less a Person for its Author than the late Dean Swift, were it less apposite to the Subject; I shall therefore give it you without the least Alteration, though in some Particulars I think he goes too great Lengths.

Dublin, March 23, 1734.

return you my hearty Thanks for your Let-ter and Discourse upon the Fishery; you discover in both a true Love of your Country, and (except your Civilities to the) a very good Judgment, good Withes to this ruined Kingdom, and a perfect Knowledge of the Subject you treat: But as you are more temperate than I, and confequently much wifer, (for Corrections are apt to make me impatient and give Offence, which you prudently avoid) ever fince I began to think, I was enraged at the Folly of England, in suffering the Dutch to have almost the whole Advantage of our Fishery just under our Noses. The last Lord Wemys told me, he was Governor of a Caftle in Scotland, near which the Dutch used to Ash & He fent to them in a civil Manner, to delire they would fend him some Fish, which they brutishly refused; whereupon he ordered three or four Cannon to be discharged from the Castle, (for their Boats were in Reach of the Shot) and immediately they feit him more than he wanted. The Dutch are like a Knot of Sharpers among a Parcel of honest Gentlemen who think they understand Play, and are bubled of their Money.

Tehnshoods odgis

I love them for the Love they have to their Country, which, however, is no Vie tue in them, because it is their private Interest, which is directly contrary to England. In the Queen's Time, I did often press the Lord Treasurer Oxford, and others of the Ministry, upon this very Subject; but the Answer was, We must not offend the Dutch; who were at that very Time oppressing us in all our Steps towards a Peace. I laught to see the Zeal that Ministry had about the Fishing of Newfoundland (I think) while no Care was taken against the Dutch fishing just at our Doors. As to my native Country, (as you call it) I happened indeed by a perfect Accident to be born here, my Mother being left here from returning to her House at Leicester, and I was a Year old before I was fent to England; thus I am a Teague, and an Irishman, or what People please, although the best Part of my Life was in England. What I did for this Country was from perfect Hatted of Tyrany and Oppression, for which I had a Proclamation against me of 300 l. which my old Friend, my Lord Carteret, was forced to confent to, the very first or second Night of his Arrival hither. The Crime was that of writing against the Project of one Wood, an Ironmonger, to coin One hundred and eight eight thousand Pounds in Halfpence, no worth a fixth Part of the Money; which was laid before the People in fo plain a Manner, that they all refused it, and so the Nation was preserved from immediate Ruin. I have done fome small Services to this Kingdom, but I can do no more: I have too many Years upon me, and have too much Sickness. I am out of Favour at Court. where I was well received during two Summers fix and feven Years ago. The governing People here do not love me; for as corrupt as England is, it is an Habitation of Saints in Comparison of Ireland. We are all Slaves and Knaves and Fools, and all but Bishops and People in Employments Beggars. The Cash of Ireland does not amount to Two hundred thousand Pounds. The few honest Men amongst us are dead-hearted, poor, and out of Favour and Power. I talked to two or three Gentlemen of this House of Commons now sitting here, mentioned your Scheme, shewed how very advantageous it would be to Ireland; they agreed with me; but faid, that if fuch a Thing were proposed, the Members would all go out, as a Thing they had no Concern in. I believe the People of Lapland, or the Hottentots, are not fo miserable a People as we; for Oppression supported by Power will infallibly introduce flavish Principles.

ciples. I am afraid that even in England your Proposal will come to nothing; there is not Virtue enough left among Mankind. If your Scheme should pass into a Law, it will become a Jobb; your sanguine Temper will cool, Rogues will be the Gainers; Party and Faction will intermingle, and defeat the most essential Parts of the whole Design; Standing-Armies in Time of Peace, Projects of Excise, and Bribing-Elections, are all you are like to be employed in; not forgetting Septennial Parliaments, directly against the old Whig-Principles, which always have been mine.

A Gentleman of this Kingdom, about three Years ago, joined with some others in a Fishery here in the Northern Parts; they advanced only Two hundred Pounds by Way of Trial; they got Men from Orkney to cure the Fish, who understood it well; but the vulgar Folks of Ireland are so lazy and so knavish, that it turned to no Account, nor would any body join with them, and so the Matter fell, and they loft two Thirds of their Money. Oppressed Beggars are always Knaves, and I believe there are hardly any other among us; they had rather gain a Shilling by Knavery, than five Pound by honest Dealing. They lost 300 l. a Year for ever, in the Time of the Plague, at Marfeilles,

Marfeilles, when the Spaniards would have bought all their Linnen from Ireland; but the Merchants and the Weavers fent over such abominable Linnen, that it was all returned back, and fold for a fourth Part Value. This is our Condition, which you may pleafe to pity, but never can mend. I with your good Success with all my Heart. I hope always loved good Projects, but have always found them to miscarry.

all a betrar I am, Sir du l'and bla

with true Esteem for your good Intentions,
your most obedient humble Servant.

P. S. I would subscribe my Name, if I had not a very bad one, so I leave you to guess it. If I can be of any Service to you in this Kingdom, I shall be glad you will employ me.

So far the Dean. And though I do not concur with him in all his Notions, yet he feems right in the main; it being notorious that this most valuable Branch of Commerce has been the Object of public Attention at different Times, but always by some Fatality

lity came to nothing. However, now feems to be the happy Era for attaining those Bleffings, and having them diffuled amongst us : For at the Close of an expensive exhausting War, his Majesty, from his wife paternal Care for his Subjects Felicity, took the Lead, by opening the last Session of Parliament with a most gracious Speech from the Throne, recommending the Improvement of Commerce; and agreeable thereto. the Parliament has done more that Way than was ever known in any one Seffion: To which add, the Public Spirit exerted in the City of London, and other Places, to cooperate for the public Good, as appears by the City's Petition to the Honourable House of Commons for a Fishery; so that the King, Lords and Commons, with the Bulk of the People, being united, and follicitous to promote this grand Matter, there feems to be a moral Certainty of its Success, maugre all the Intrigues and Artifices of our Adversaries.

The Petition of the Merchants and Traders of London mentions the Benefit that would accrue to this united Kingdom from the Establishment of a Fishery; viz. The civilizing his Majesty's Highland Subjects, the increasing the Vent of our Staple Manufactures,

nufactures, the multiplying of our Seamen, the Employment of a vast Number of industrious and otherways helpless Poor, the lessening the parochial and public Taxes, and improving the national Wealth.

The first of these Articles, I fear, is not fo much attended to as it deserves: Dan-gers that are past, or at a Distance, seldom make fuch Impressions as are requisite to guard against them in Time; though it is certainly more expedient to prevent Dangers than to encounter them. Every body remembers during the Course of the late unnatural Rebellion, that when the News of the Rebels being at Derby reached London, which happened upon a Friday, tho' the Rebels were but a small Body of Men, and irregular, yet their Approach occasioned no fmall Confusion and Consternation in the City, of which I was an Eye-witness; infomuch, that after his Royal Highness the Duke had obliged them to retreat, that Day was called the Black Friday. Now to prevent any fuch Day for the future, it would feem worthy of our Regard to use all such Means as might render the Highlanders loyal and useful Subjects. They are very capable of Industry; I can say so from my own proper Knowledge, having had a Family at the Mines in Argyllshire of no less than

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than fifteen hundred Men, Women and Children, for which I was obliged to provide both Food and Cloathing; a very troublesome Task with such a Mixture of unruly People: They were partly composed of Welsh, Cornish, Irish, Flemish, Derbyshire Men and Low-country Scots; but the far greater Number were Highlanders, who were so apt to learn the Art of Mining, Washing, Dressing, and Smelting of Ores, that they soon became as expert in that Way, as any that came from the mineral Countries.

When the Rebellion was happily extinguished, some good Laws were made for the better Government of the Highlands; and other Laws were spoke of for farther improving and civilizing of the Highlanders, which is very practicable: And thinking it every one's Duty to fuggest any thing that might possibly tend to the public Good, I took the Liberty to offer my Thoughts upon that Head, in the Jacobite Journals of March and April 1748, chiefly recommending such Methods as occurred to me for improving the Highlands, by erecting Townships in proper Places, particularly upon the Lakes, Arms and Bays of the Sea, with Immunities, Privileges, and Encouragements for industrious People to resort thither, who might

might be employed to Advantage in the Fishery, Mining, and other useful and profitable Labour, with Independance and Security: I consider this as the most effectual Means to introduce an Independance in that Country, and for that and other Reasons would still wish to see such a Regulation established by Act of Parliament.

But to return to our Subject; I will now trouble you with my Thoughts as to the practical Part and Execution of our fishing with Buffes. The first Staple, or Place for Stores and Necessaries, I would recommend, is Lerwick or Brasa Sound in Zetland: It is a fine spacious Bay, where the whole British Navy might ride with Safety. Here the Dutch make the first annual Rendezvous, and begin fishing on St. John's Day, or the 24th of June, N. S. and go gradually fouthward along the Coast of Scotland and England, till they come to the Banks of Yarmouth in September. These Islands of Zetland lie North and South, and stretch from Latitude 60 to 61. The Number of Inhabitants are reckoned about Fourteen thoufand, almost all of them employed in fishing Cod, Ling, and Tusk, which last is a most delicious Fish, is somewhat like a small Cod, but shorter, thicker and fatter; is cured in the same Way as Cod, and is peculiar culiar to these Islands. In the Orkney Islands are many more Inhabitants, and many of them are employed in Fishing. Orkney and Zetland may spare Hands for manning a hundred Buffes, which may be first employed in the Cod, Ling and Tusk-Fishing, about the Islands of Zetland, and to the North-West, from the Middle of January 'till the Middle of May, when they must return to Brasa Sound, and prepare for the Herrings the Beginning of June. The Cod, Ling and Tusk, are best and plentiest in the Beginning of the Year; but it being then generally very stormy, the Veffels cannot always keep the Sea; but as they have Sea-Room, or Harbours, there is little Danger.

The next Staple for Stores and Necessaries upon the East Side of Scotland, might be at Peterhead, Aberdeen, Stonehaven, or Montrose; but rather the first, as it is the most easterly Point of main Land in Scotland, and Herrings and Cod are in great Plenty in their Seasons off this Headland: Besides, there are two Harbours at Peterhead, the one North and the other South, capable of being united in one, and made capacious, with twenty Foot Water. This would not only be a good Situation for a Staple, as the Fishing lies both to the North and South of it,

but is also commodious for repacking and reshipping the Fish for the Baltick, Germany, and Flanders. And further, this Harbour, with proper Improvements, might be a good Staple for the Greenland Trade, and fave so far the Navigation of these Ships from and to London: Here they could man and victual their Ships, and manufacture their Oil and Whalebone much cheaper than at London, to which Place the clear Oyl, Whalebone and Spermacetæ, might be eafily transported. This Harbour is already of great Benefit to Trade and Navigation, and if improved, might be much more fo, as was certified some Years ago by a Number of Merchants and Commanders of Ships, when a Collection was made for that Purpose, with a View to save many Ships and Men's Lives. As it is so material a Place, and of fuch Consequence both to the Fishing, and to Trade and Navigation in general, I have annexed a Draught of it for your Obfervation.

The next Staple southwards might be at Anstruther, Leith, or Brunt-Island; but rather the first, being at the Mouth of the Forth, where it is broad, and there have often been great Fishings there; also the People of several neighbouring Towns are good Fishers, and their Wives and Children acquainted

acquainted with making and mending Nets, &c.

Then as the Herrings swim southward, we might have another Staple at Newcastle, Hull, or Yarmouth; but I think rather at Hull, because, I think, it is more centrical; and very probably in that deep Bay, from Flamborough-head to Cromer, Herrings may be in Plenty; and as they have a great Trade to the Baltick, there would be frequent Opportunities of Shipping, at an easy Rate.

We must now resort to the Highlands; and, as formerly mentioned, there are Herrings at Loch-Rogue, and upon the West Coast of the Lewis Islands, so early as the Month of June, though but lately discovered, and little frequented: Also Plenty of Cod and Ling, in the same Seasons as about the Mands of Zetland; fo that in like Manner Buffes may fish there, and in the Opening between Bara and Ireland, first for the one, and then for the other. The best Place for a Staple would be at Stornway, in one of the Lewis Islands, which is a good Harbour, and there are many good Hands; also it lies open to the Minch, a Sea above fixty Miles over to the main Land of Scotland, to the Southward of which lies the Isle of Sky, almost quite a-cross, and to the North North it is open for the Fish to come in; and often in the Autumn there are very great Herring-Fishings in the Lochs upon the Side of the Lewis, and Isle of Sky, and main Land; so that Stornway would be very centrical for all Manner of Stores.

For the Clyde-Fishing, and for shipping of Cod, Ling and Herrings, to the Southern and West-India Markets, Air, Cambleton, or Lamash, in the Island of Aran, might be proper Places for a Staple; but rather the first, there being often great Herring and Cod-Fishings in that Bay and Coast: Also it being a Town of good Trade, Ships may always be had ready for any Voyage.

Having mentioned the Island of Aran, I must acquaint you, it is a large Island, above twenty Miles long, very improveable, and well situated for Fishing. I have been told that Capt. Walker, late Commodore of the Royal-Family Privateers, in which Station he behaved with uncommon Conduct and Bravery, is about taking a long Lease of that Island, for himself and some other Gentlemen, in order to improve it for the Fishery: A most laudable Example of true Patriotism! first boldly to wage War with the Enemies of his Country, and then to employ the Reward of his Dangers and Toils in

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in improving the same at Home. As to the Herrings that swim through the Irish Channel, there may be a Staple at Whitehaven or Liverpool, the Herrings coming often that Way, and both being Places of great Trade, and affording Opportunities of shipping for the Southern and West-India Markets.

I remember to have feen great Herring-Fishings at Waterford in Ireland; and when the Busses fish in the early Season between Bara Islands and Ireland, Londonderry or Colerain might be proper Places for a Staple; and it is probable, that there are early Herrings on the North-west and West Coast of Ireland, which might be tried, and all in-cluded in the same general Company. I am furprized, that the Parliament and People of that Kingdom, who are fo very industrious in promoting the public Good, (witness the Bounties and Premiums on their Linnen Manufacture, Tillage, and fundry other Articles of Industry) should be so extremely remiss in the Fishery; but I have heard it faid, that if all the natural Advantages of that Country were to be fuitably encouraged, it wou'd foon be too rich.

Now I am upon the Subject of Ireland, I cannot help mentioning one Mr. Boyd, a very ingenious Gentleman, who lived at Bally-

Bally-Castle, and was employed in making a Harbour there, for which he had received from the Parliament Thirty thouland Pounds, at three different Times. This was indeed a most difficult Task, on Account of small Flowings and a rapid Tide betwixt Bally-Castle and the Island of Rachlin. I came to fee this Gentleman, and the Works he was conducting, and the famous Giant's Caufway in the Neighbourhood; and in my Way I visited the Isle of Jona, or Yeolonkill, on the Back of the Island of Mull, remarkable for an old Monastery and St. Ourane's Church, the Burying-place of eight Norwegian Kings, forty-eight Kings of Scotand, and four of Ireland, and many Persons of Distinction: Also I passed near the dreadful Gulf of Corybrechan, lying between the Islands of Jura and Scarba; and though it was then a fine Day, and quite calm, yet the Gulf roar'd as in a Storm, which was frightfully pretty, and raised my Curiofity to flay upon the Island of Scarba all Night; I went to the Point of Land next the Gulf, and got a Dish of very fine Fish, whose Names and Kinds were till then unknown to me.

I cannot help observing, that a common Fishery may be a great Means of cementing and strengthening the Union of the three King-

Kingdoms. Such a general Intercourse with one another to the remotest Parts, added to the Connection of their Concerns and Interests, and the Prosperity from thence diffusing itself throughout the Whole would by Degrees extinguish those unjust Anupathies that too much prevail. We are all govern'd by the same Sovereign, and by similar Laws, and when our Interests are common, our Affections will be fo: Also this would be the best School for teaching the Highlanders the English Language, as well as Industry. In fuch a Situation, what Powers would prefume to invade or difturb us? These little Digressions you'll be so good as to excuse, my Heart being warmed with the Sentiments by which they are fuggested,

In the Manner above-mentioned, the Buffes might be fully employed from the Middle of September, in Fishing, and some of them later in the Minch and Lochs: Then some of them might load Herrings in October for the Baltick, and return with Barrel-Staves, Clapboards, and other Necessaries for the Fishing; others might carry Herrings to Hamburgh, Flanders, France, and Portugal, and return with Salt, &c. and some of them may winter at Home, to mend Nets, and prepare for the next Year's Expedition; so that

that there may be Employment for them the whole Year round.

The making the Busses of a proper Model, with the Divisions in the Hold, and the Nets, their Dimensions, Booms, and Manner of fitting them, being also material, I have given you a Draught of them, as they have been used by all the Dutch, and the sew British that have attempted this Trade; and this may be some Direction for the Frame of those that shall be built and fitted out upon this Occasion.

These Busses, when they are fitted for the Cod-fishing, must have a Drove-Sail, which is a square Sail at the Bow of the Vessel, and is under Water, by which they will ride or drive very slowly.

What I have hitherto said concerns chiefly the Method of executing a Fishery; I shall take the Liberty in the next Place to touch upon some Points which may be of use in forming a Plan for its Encouragement. I shall begin with a particular Account or Computation of the Duties and Excises payable upon the different Materials for building and fitting out a Bus of fifty Last Burden for the Herring-Fishing.

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On Three Months Provisions	and ;	stores	viz.
35 Lib. Tobacco	00	11	5 =
3 Anchors or 30 Gallons			
Corn-Spirit	00	17	6
12 Hogheads or 18 Barrels			
Small-Beer	nioI)	4	0
8 Stone Candles			
10 Bushels Home-Salt for	The state of the s		
Beef, Pork, Butter, and			
Ship's Use E 2	I		o Čt.
E 2			o cl.

20, /			
	1.	s.	d.
Heads to 50 Last Barrels	00.	9	61
Last ditto 300 Bushels foreign Salt for	4	8	9
25 Last Herrings	railies. Yrg of	18	6
375 Ditto Home Salt, Eng- lish Duty, for 25 ditto -	62	10	0
	74	3	9
Total Duties upon one Buss built and fitted out for Herring-Fishing	150	8	1 1/4
Whereof appears to be annual for 3 Months Provisions and Stores To which must be added annually for Repairs of Nets and Buss, the Duties upon the Materials Total annual Duties upon a Herring-Buss after the first Year f	Cub 3. P 3. P 3. Per 3. Per 3. S 4. S 4. S 4. S 6. F er	3 3 COS 1	9
fr 30 Paol Carl	List Log	edusii alineu	
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I shall afterwards have Occasion to make use of the Amount of these Duties; mean While you'll observe that all the Articles are foreign, and brought from beyond Sea, cheaper than at Home, except Beer, Corn, Spirits, Candles, and Home-Salt. It will be necessary to give you an Account of the first Cost of these Articles abroad, as they have been this Year by my Advices.

- (a - b +) - (a - b +)	1.	s.	d.
26 Load of 50 Foot Oak			
Timber from the Baltick,			
Embden, Bremen, Ham-		s inu	
burgh and Norway, about		กษาก	P. Company
8d. per Cubic Foot	44	3	4
21 Ditto Oak Plank, 2 Inch			
thick and 24 Foot long,		ial to	
from Dantzick, at about		emoi)	
f 120 a f 240 Polish		MUTCI	
Gilders per Shock of 60		liauqi	
Pieces, is 262 Plank		ofs a	
Brack and Crown at an		gu s	
Average f 180 per Shock		their l	
Ex. f 16 per f. Sterl.	40	2	6
40 Pieces, 2 in 30 Foot	Ty	1:31	Mali, T.
Spruce Deals, at about			
f 110 per Shock, as a-	1200		
bove	1	II	8
	4		Ditto
		00	שונע

(30)			
	1.	s.	d.
60 Ditto Norway Deals, at	7.10		
10 Rix-Dollars per Hun-	CHAL		
dred, Ex. 4 s. per R. D.	Pal.	0	0
1 Small Mast, 16 Inch 60		30	
Foot, 15 Rix-Dollars	3	0	0
2 Pieces for Bowm and	ney c	11 6 8	
Yard, at 7 Rix-Dollars	00.6	1.10	
each in Norway 1- 191	102	16	0
4 Thousand Trenails, at a-	5 a	uck	
bout 8d. per Hund. in ditto	I	6	8
I Tun Iron of Stockholm,	18 81	bulle	
at 53 Cepr. Dollars per	Po	"324 K	
Ship Pound, a 700 Ship	11 10	1.12	
Pound to the Tun, at	teterr	Mei	
6d. per Cepr. Dollar,	299	985	6
121 Tuns Hemp for Cor-		tent	nt.
dage, and 2 flat Nets,		0	
at Peterburg 9 Rubels			
per Berquit, or 360 %.		doing	
English, is 777 Berquit	335	tad)	
700 Rubels at 4s. 3d.	148	15	0
36 Barrels Tar, in Norway			
33 Rix-Dollars per Last,	3,6		
Ex. 4 s.	19	16	0
25 Lib. Tobacco in Virgi-	1 350	1 June	1
nia at 1 td. per lb.	00	2	54
10 Ct. Hamburgh Barrel-	Xaa	0.03	
Stave, for Heads to 50	00000	iq i	
Last Barrels; at Ham-	30.6	TRU.	
Luintiev - n			burgh

1 3*	
	1. s. d.
burgh they cost	20
Marks Lubs Currt.	perislicity of Resident
Mill at 15d. A St	4 1 7 10 0
124 Ct. Dantzick in	hall thely there is
Staves for 50 Last B	Life of R a re local
rels; they cost there	Pierre for Barn
bout f 60 Polish	net and brown
bout J oo Puty	Per divis
great Hundred of	40, 40, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 1
Shock is 5 to Ct. f	130011 10181111111
a 15d. 7 - omi-ni.	bu-1119 107000
300 Bushels great Salt fr	
France, Portugal,	lor app 85 th
Spain, or the Island	s in the off quie
the Mediterranean, at	found to thens's
Avarage reckon 5d.	per Cepř. raq
Bushel -	
Nets.	aft a three sales a flat
eladu	317 1 175
To which add 10 per C	ent Berquir, tne
for Charges abroad	31 14 15
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have all many of the college.	348 15 9

I must beg Leave to obferve here, that the Duties appear to be excessive high. But to proceed: Suppose a Buss built and sitted out

with

with two Flect of Nets, Provisions, and all Necessa- ries for the Herring-Fish- ing, should cost about 1400 Paid for foreign Materials 348	s. 00	d.
Remains for Freights, Manufacturing, Duties, and Provisions, &c 1051	4	3.
The annual foreign Charge. for Tobacco, Staves for Barrels and great Salt, as above 33 Also Materials for repairing Buss and Nets	4	115
Total Annual Charge to Foreigners, after the first Year	\$11.750 (35) 1.	

By this Estimate it appears, that the annual Disburse for foreign Materials will not exceed a small Sum indeed, which the Value of a few Lasts of Herrings would repay to us as a Nation; and all other Out-goings, in Manusactures and Charges, which

which must be considerable, wou'd, so far as they are reimbursed, be so much clear Gain; or, in other Words, an Addition of Wealth to the Nation in general; besides the great Profits that may be expected from the Returns, when successful.

But the Nation must be Gainer at all Events, yet, considering the various publick Taxes, to which all the Materials are liable, it is possible the Adventurers may be Losers, which occasions the Necessity of their being indemnified by the Public.

You see, by the Estimate laid before you, that the Revenue would receive, for every Herring Buss of 50 Last Burden, an Addition of above £. 150 Ster. the first Year, and of near £. 100 Ster. every succeeding Year; besides which, the employing these Busses in the Cod, Ling and Tusk-Fishing, will occasion the Consumption of more Materials, and so increase the Revenue, as well as the Riches of the Nation: What is there then to hinder your being liberal, to encourage this laudable Undertaking?

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And with that View, I shall beg to submit the following Suggestions to your Consideration, viz.

That

That the small Fund already destined for improving the Fishery in Scotland, under the Direction of his Majesty and Trustees, should remain for the Encouragement of the Coast and Boat-Fishings there; as also, which I suppose was always meant, that the Bounties at present subsisting upon the Exportation of Fish, should still continue.

Then as to the grand Fishing with Busses in deep Water, for Herrings and Cod, &c. we have heard that in former Times, the King, Nobility and Gentry, as well as the Merchants and Traders, did affociate themfelves into a Company, for promoting and carrying on the Fisheries: I hope the Spirit of true Patriotism is no less prevalent now, than it was in the Times I allude to. If that is the Case, and that all can be induced to be concerned in a joint Stock, as, indeed, the whole Nation is concerned in its Success, I humbly apprehend it will be an eafy Matter to establish such a Company upon a good and equitable Foundation, and to indemnify the Adventurers from Lofs, which is most reasonable.

The Public may give 4 per Cent. on the Capital imployed in the Fisheries, which I think

think much too little to ballance the Duties upon all the Materials, as may appear by the Abstract; however, the Legislature may make fuch additional Allowance for a Premium, as they shall judge proper; and as regular and fair Accounts should be made and reported annually to Parliament, whatever Loss shall fairly appear to have been incurred, may be made good by Parliament; and in Case of Profit, exceeding the Interest of only 3 per Cent. upon the Capital, over and above the Premium received, that then, and in that Case, the Company should repay to the Public, the 4 per Cent. or whatever Bounty the Company had received; fo as that the Company shall receive no Premium, in Case their Profits exceed 3 per Gent. upon the Capital. of true Patriotism is

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This will appear the more reasonable when you consider, that without a previous Bargain or Stipulation, if the Company, notwithstanding all their Endeavours, should suffer a Loss, and make their Application to Parliament for Redress, an Indemnification might be expected from their usual Equity and good Faith. But what is here proposed is much more favourable to the Public, for in Case of the Company's making 3 per Cent. Profit upon their Capital, which may be expected, and much more

after some Time's Experience, then the Public is to give no Premium, and will yet enjoy all the additional Duties occasioned by the Fishery.

By this Way, the Government becomes a Sort of Partner with the Company, and I hope properly; for the Government may run some Risque of the Profit and Loss, yet the Country must be Gainer in any Event, and this is a sure Method of animating Adventurers, viz. to be indemnissed from Loss, and to have 3 per Cent. Interest for their Money at all Events, and also to have a Chance of Profit, without reckoning the immense Advantage which will redound to the whole Kingdom in general.

I shall only add, that the this extensive Trade cannot, in my Opinion, be carried on to Advantage, but by a Company; yet as some are Enemies to Companies, and may not chuse to become Adventurers in that Way, it may be proper to chalk out some Means for their Encouragement, in such Sort as to avoid Perplexity and Confusion. It has been before observed, that proper Places or Staples must be appointed for Settlements, Warehouses and Stores, and for repacking and reshipping to foreign Markets; there must be Officers to see these Things

Things executed, and the whole must be conducted under sit By-Laws and Regulations: Now 'tis obvious that this cannot be done without the Power and united Strength of a Company, which might, in a short Time, have a sufficient Fleet of Busses, and accomplish all those Works and Settlements, and be surnished with all Stores and Materials preparatory to the executive Part.

Besides, when a new Branch of Trade is left to private Undertakers, it is not certain, that any Encouragement they may receive from the Public will induce them to fet about a Trade, they may not be throughly acquainted with; few People chuse to be the first on fuch Occasions, but lie by till they fee the Effects of Experiments made by others; and by this Means, vast national Benefits may be lost and forgotten: Of this we have a recent Instance, in the Greenland Fishery, which hath been so amply encouraged by Parliament; and yet, to my great Surprize, I do not hear of any Preparation for carrying on that Trade, with a Spirit fuitable to its Importance.

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However, as it could be wish'd that the Herring and Cod Fishery was rendered as universal as possible, and that none might have Reason to complain, I would propose that

that every British Subject should be at Li-berty to follow it under their own Management, but fubject to the Laws and Regulations to be prescribed by the Company, and should be entitled to a proportionable Part of the Incouragement to be given by Parliament, paying a reasonable Part to the Company for their Charges of Settlements and Management, and of which those private Adventurers will have the Benefit. I do not apprehend there is Room to fear, that this would extend the Trade too far, or that the public Encouragement would amount or fwell to too great a Sum; for the there should be many private Adventurers befides the Company, the Field is large, and when the Fish are rendered cheap by being plenty, the Confumption would greatly increase both at home and abroad; and, as has been before mentioned, the more Fishing-Busses and Veffels there are, the greater will be the Increase of the Revenue, by the Duties, &c. upon the Materials, even beyond the Bounties expected from the Public; not to infift on the Increase of Seamen and of the Riches of the Nation, which every one may eafily Ordinances and fecret. snigami the billing and curing of

But to avoid the Difficulty of afcertaining the exact Profit and Loss, which must depend upon a Variety of Calculations, it is humbly humbly submitted that the same Kind of Encouragement be granted by the Legislature, to the Herring (by the Dutch term'd the great) Fishery, which hath been already extended to the Whale-Fishery, which the Dutch call the small Fishery; viz. a Bounty of 40 Shillings per Ton on the Ship's Burden.

This Bounty might probably answer the defired End, tho' the Out-fit of a Herring-Buss with her annual Repairs, is much greater, in Proportion to the Burthen, than that of a Greenland Ship. And the Public would be no Loser, as the Duties on the Materials, &c. according to the above Estimate, would exceed the Premium, and be paid about a Year sooner.

As you are well acquainted with this Subject, it would be unnecessary for me to enlarge upon it, or to give any Hints of the proper Cheques and Methods of right governing such a Company; of these you are a better Judge; only as I have got, with some Industry, Copies of the most material of the Dutch Placats, Ordinances and secret Orders concerning the Fishing and curing of Herrings, to which their Skippers swear Obedience and Secrecy, you shall be very welcome to the Perusal of them at your Pleasure.

P. S.

P. S. Since writing the above, I have had Occasion to converse with an old Friend, a very ingenious Gentleman, concerning a Speculation I have long thought of, for fishing Herrings in a new Way, which I was unwilling to broach without some previous Approbation, which having got from my ingenious Friend, I shall venture to communicate the same to you.

You will remember I have taken Notice, that in the Highlands, there are early and late Herring-Fishings, in Lochs, which are Inlets of the Sea, twenty and thirty Miles in Length; fome of them are narrow at certain Places, and then spread wider again, fuch as Loch-Sunart, which is above twenty four Miles in Length, where I have been from one End to the other; near the Mouth of it lies an Island, by which it makes two Passages, neither of them above twenty Fathoms broad; and afterwards it is twenty Miles long and above one Mile broad in feveral Places; but supposing it was two or three Miles broad, a Buffe's Bush-Rope, to which the Nets are made fast, stretches eight hundred Fathoms, being almost one Mile; the Herring feldom swim deep, and the Nets may be raised or lowered at Pleafure; what then should hinder us, when the Herrings

Herrings come into any of those Lochs, from shotting them in with some of the Busses Nets; and as the Nets that keep them in, may probably be full of Herrings, and apt to break if long in the Water, it would be easy to shut another Door of Nets and so take up the first, and repeat the same Experiment every Day; this, together with the Boats in the Loch, might catch immense Quantities, as may be more easily imagined than told. I humbly think it very practicable, and worth a Trial.

Being lately in Suffolk on the Sea-coast, in my Way to Town, I observed a great Number of Dutch Vessels fishing in close with the Shore; and at Southwold the 14th of November, I had the following Information from the Merchants and Traders there, attested by Mt. Thomas Gardner, Comptroller of the Customs and Assistant-Searcher of the Fisheries; viz. that the Dutch Fishermen come from off Yarmouth about Michaelmass to this Coast, and to the Southward, to the Number of about one hundred Sail, twenty to twenty five Tuns Burden each; they strike their Masts and fish for Herrings close in Shore; by which Means they hinder the Fishers of this Place and along the Shore, from exercifing their Trade of fishing, by occupying all the Grounds; also when the Boats

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Boats of this Place go out to Cod and other Fishing, the Dutch Vessels interrupt them by driving over their Bowies and Lines, which obliges them to hawl the Lines before the Time, that they may not be lost.

Likewise these Dutch Vessels bring with them from Holland, Brandy, Teas, and other Dutch Goods, which they sell to Coaliers and other Ships, passing that Way in great Numbers every Day; also they come freely into our Harbours, and often hawl their Vessels on Shore upon the Beaches, and may sell Quantities of Dutch Goods to the Country-People.

I need not make any Animadversion on this Article, the Truth of which can be attested by many Hundreds of Persons; but upon the whole you may see how necessary it is, speedily to apply proper Remedies for so many and great Evils, which we are the more sanguine to hope, as his Majesty has now again, in his most gracious Speech at the Opening of this Session of Parliament, so strongly recommended the maintaining of our Navy, and Improvement of Trade in all its Branches.

LINE CONTRACTOR OF TO

from g to 6 Inches and the

Explanation of the LETTERS for the Herring-Net.

A A A A Are the four Pieces of which the Net consists, each of them being 18 Fathom long upon the Lint or Line, and 80 Mash deep.

BB Is the Head Balk of the Net, being two small Lines about the Thickness of a Quil, to which each Mash at the End of the Net is laced with threeply Twine.

of the Net, being a Line full twice as big as a Quil, to which each Mash of the upper Edge of the Net is laced with the like Twine.

DD Are the Offels, being small Lines made on Purpose, each 18 Inches long; they are fixed to two Mashes at one End, by an Eye, and to the Spier-rope by the other End.

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E E Is the Spier-rope, being a four Strand Cable laid Rope, two Inches in Circumference; each Net must have a Spier-rope 15 Fathoms long.

FFF Are the Corks, each of which must be 9 or 10 Inches long, and from 5 to 6 Inches broad, of the thickest Cork can be got.

GG

Strand Cable laid Rope 2 \(\frac{1}{2}\) Inches in Circumference, each Net must have a Lacing 7 \(\frac{1}{2}\) Fathoms long.

H Is the Bush-Rope, a four Strand Cable laid Rope, being from 5 to 5 ½ Inches in Circumference, and Soo Fathoms long, for a Buss of 50 Lasts.

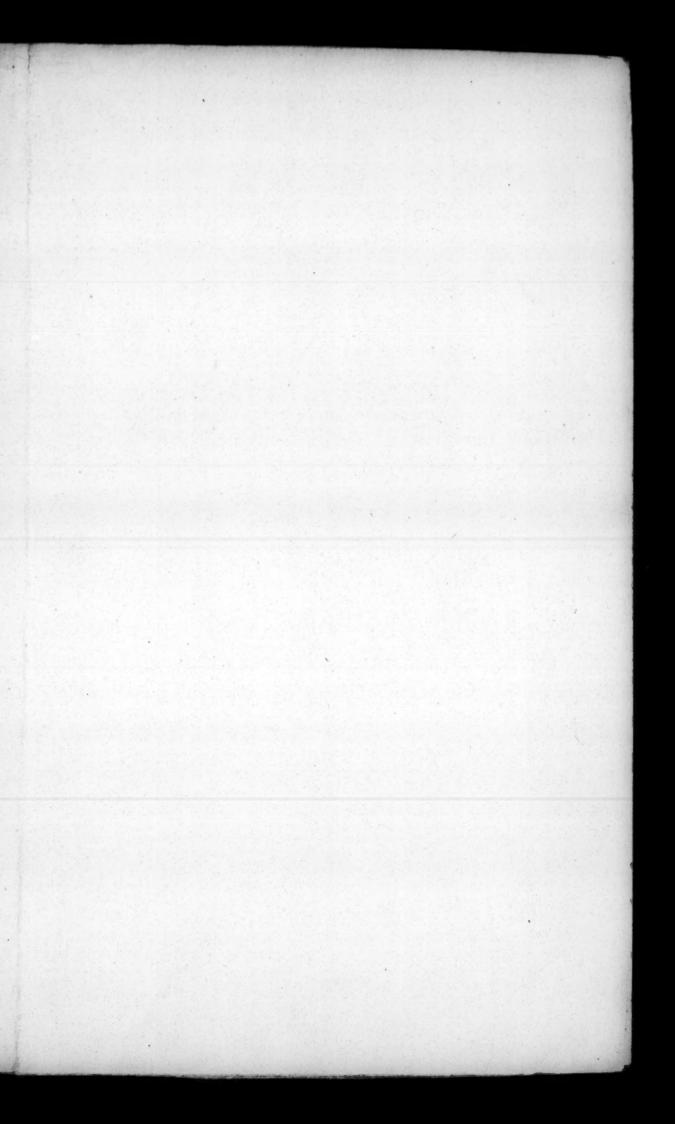
of 50 Lasts.

L is a small Bowie, being a Barrel
that will contain 4 English Gallons;
each Net must have a Bowie.

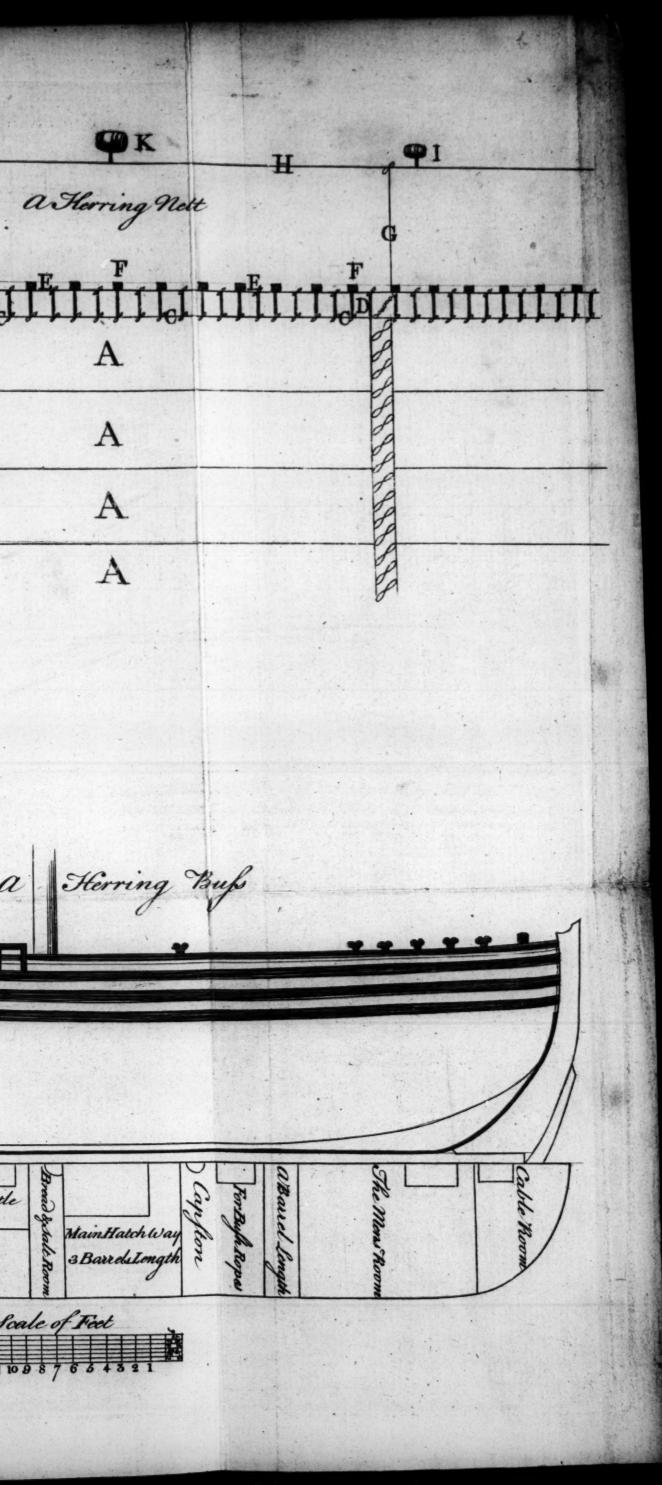
of 32 Gallons; four of them ferves the whole Fleet of Nets.

N. B. The hind Balks of the Nets when fixed for Service, are join d together with thort Pieces of Twine, each Joining being about two Feet below the other; the Offels are about a Foot from each other, and the Corks (which must be strongly laced to the Spier-rope) are three Feet from each other; a Buss of 50 Last, must have 48 Ncts of this Dimension in her Fleet, with a half Net for leading the Fleet out when they are shut at Sea.

FINIS







ugie Mouth The Coast begins here to hum Westinand and * + + almandhy a Small Greek a the Rocks where Boats so Bod & 10000 Ronhead Town Latit: 57. 30. Gardens Indosed Groun Alitle Housent being Brought on the Same point with the Windmill directs to good Anchoring Ground in the Bay Hirk-bum Coble Haven 20 March Aripe Meith Hill Mills of Innernetic mid Mill Burn The Bay

